



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

R. Scott Ralls, Ph.D.

President

January 6, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents
FROM: Dr. Lisa Chapman, Senior Vice President for Programs & Student Services
SUBJECT: High School Equivalency Assessments

At its meeting on November 21, 2014, the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges approved two new assessments as official High School Equivalency Assessments (HSEA).

See updated information below:

Assessment	Short Title	Vendor
General Educational Development	GED®	GED Testing Service
High School Equivalency Test (new)	HiSET®	Educational Testing Services
Test Assessing Secondary Completion (new)	TASC™	CTB/McGraw-Hill

All three High School Equivalency Assessments are recognized by US Department of Education and cover the same content areas. Please see attached US DOE GEN-14-06. Each assessment allows test-takers to demonstrate proficiency at the academic skills expected by employers and postsecondary institutions. Passing any one of the assessments will lead to the same High School Equivalency Diploma issued by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges.

The two new assessments, HiSET® and TASC™ allow for either computer- or paper-based testing. Community Colleges may select which test or tests they wish to offer beginning in January 2015 based on what best meet the needs of their local service area. However, it is our recommendation that to ensure accessibility for all North Carolina students, colleges offer both paper- and computer-based HSE assessments.

Additional information will be forthcoming soon. Please contact Ms. Diane Steinbeiser, HSE State Administrator, at steinbeiserd@nccommunitycolleges.edu or 919-807-7214 if you have any questions.

Attachment

- C: GED Test Administrators
- Basic Skills Directors
- Senior Continuing Education Administrators
- Chief Academic Officers
- Chief Student Development Administrators

CC15-001
E-Mail



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

APR 11 2014

GEN-14-06

Subject: Recognized Equivalent of a High School Diploma

Summary: This letter provides information on State-authorized examinations released in January 2014.

Dear Colleague:

This letter provides important information to institutions about State-authorized examinations that were released in January 2014. Also, we provide guidance on how an applicant for Federal student aid should answer the high school completion status question on the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.

Update on State-Authorized Examinations

The **General Educational Development Certificate (GED)** is included as one of the recognized equivalents of a high school diploma in 34 CFR 600.2. The GED test (from which a passing or failing score is used to determine if a State will issue a high school equivalency certificate to a student) has historically been the accepted State-authorized examination; however, several States have recently selected alternative tests for determining high school equivalency.

A State certificate received by a student after the student has passed a State-authorized examination that the State recognizes as the equivalent of a high school diploma is also included as one of the recognized equivalents of a high school diploma in 34 CFR 600.2. Two examples of State-authorized examinations, in addition to the GED test, are the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC). As of January 2014, some States have either replaced the GED test with a different State-authorized examination or offer students a choice of several State-authorized examinations (e.g., a choice between the HiSET, TASC, GED test, or other State-authorized examination). Like the GED test, a student who takes the HiSET, TASC, or other State-authorized examination will receive official notification of a passing or failing score that is used to determine if a State will issue a high school equivalency certificate to a student.

Completing Question 26 on the FAFSA

The information below provides updated guidance on how applicants for Federal student aid should answer the high school completion status question on the FAFSA (Question 26).

For an applicant who completed and passed the HiSET, TASC, GED, or other State-authorized examination—

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